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RELEASED IN FULL

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	AID-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	CTME-00	C-01	DODE-00	DS-00	EB-01	EUR-01	FBO-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-06	OIC-02
	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03
	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSC-01	SS-00	STR-17
	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	RPE-00	/103W
-----7F8824 272046Z /38							

O 272049Z NOV 92 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5757  
INFO ARA COLLECTIVE  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 12455

E.O.12356: N/A  
TAGS: MARR, PGOV, ASEC, PHUM, CASC, PREL, VE  
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 10/ ATTEMPTED COUP IN CARACAS,  
AS OF 16:15

REF: CARACAS 12446 (AND PREVIOUS) NOTAL

1. LA CARLOTA AIRBASE IN CARACAS HAS BEEN RETAKEN BY  
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GOVERNMENT FORCES. REBEL FORCES THERE HAVE SURRENDERED.  
TV IS BROADCASTING SCENES FROM THE BASE. NONETHELESS,  
SMALL ARMS FIRE CONTINUES IN THE AREA. THE AIRFIELD OF  
LIBERTADOR IN MARACAY IS STILL REPORTEDLY IN REBEL HANDS;  
THIS IS THE ONLY LARGE NUCLEUS OF REBEL FORCES WHICH HAS  
NOT YET SURRENDERED.

2. TV CHANNEL FOUR IS BACK ON THE AIR. BETWEEN 1:30 AND  
2:00 P.M. IT PRESENTED A SERIES OF NEWS ITEMS, THE MOST  
SERIOUS OF WHICH WAS THE APPARENT ESCAPE OF EIGHT  
PRISONERS FROM LA CATIA PRISON (RETEN LA CATIA). NATIONAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON  
DATE/CASE ID: 08 AUG 2006 200503206

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GUARD SOLDIERS WERE OBSERVED IN THE AREA OF THE PRISON BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO GET TO THE MAIQUETIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO ASSIST THE US PASSENGERS STRANDED THERE. (EMBOFFS WERE UNABLE TO REACH MAIQUETIA AIRPORT BECAUSE THE HIGHWAY REMAINS CLOSED. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS SINCE LEARNED FROM OUR FAA REP THAT, WORKING THROUGH FAA WASHINGTON AND THE U.S. AIRLINES, HE HAS CONFIRMED THAT ALL THE AMCITS WHO WERE STRANDED THERE ARE SAFE AND IN LOCAL HOTELS. THE AIRPORT IS PEACEFUL AND UNDER NATIONAL GUARD CONTROL. AVIATION AUTHORITIES WILL DECIDE TOMORROW MORNING ABOUT WHETHER TO OPEN THE AIRPORT.) VENEVISION ALSO SHOWED ARRESTED SOLDIERS BEING MARCHED INTO A SHOPPING CENTER IN THE AREA OF LAS RUICES (EASTERN SECTION OF LA CARLOTA AIRBASE), AS WELL AS REBEL SOLDIERS BEING HELD PRISONER AT TELEVISION CHANNEL EIGHT.

3. SHORTLY AFTER 2.00 P.M., PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ APPEARED ON TELEVISION AND SAID THE SITUATION IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS UNDER CONTROL. HE ALSO SAID THAT NATIONAL LOCAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 6 WILL BE HELD AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHEDULED. JUST PRIOR TO CAP'S APPEARANCE, CELESTINO ARMAS, MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY, READ A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MINISTERS OF THE INTERIOR AND OF DEFENSE, SETTING A CURFEW FROM 6 PM TO 6 AM.

4. EX-PRESIDENT RAFAEL CALDERA HAS APPEARED ON TELEVISION AND MADE A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE CONDEMNED THE COUP ATTEMPT. HE CALLED VIOLENCE NOT THE ROAD FOR THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW, AND CALLED ON THE NATION TO SEEK POLITICAL SOLUTIONS. HOWEVER, AS HE HAD IN FEBRUARY AFTER THE FIRST COUP ATTEMPT, CALDERA ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE CAUSED BY AN INCOMPETENT AND CORRUPT GOVERNMENT. (COMMENT: CALDERA'S STATEMENT MAY HELP AVERT VIOLENCE IN THE SLUM NEIGHBORHOODS TONIGHT. END COMMENT)

5. AS OF 2:30 PM ALL CARACAS TELEVISION STATIONS ARE BROADCASTING THEIR REGULAR AFTERNOON TV FARE. SIMILARLY, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RADIO CARACAS RADIO, THE CARACAS RADIO STATIONS ARE PLAYING MUSICAL PROGRAMS.

6. NEWSPAPER KIOSKS ARE CLOSED, BUT EMBASSY LEARNED AT 2:30 P.M. FROM A JOURNALIST CONTACT THAT THE AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER "EL MUNDO" HAS PUBLISHED A LONG INTERVIEW WITH

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ADMIRAL GRUBER ODREMAN (CHIEF OF NAVY INTELLIGENCE LAST YEAR, CURRENTLY DEPUTY IG OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE), REFERRING TO HIM AS THE LEADER OF THE COUP ATTEMPT. (SEPARATELY, WE HAVE HEARD THAT "SEVERAL ADMIRALS" ARE IN CUSTODY.)

7. EMBASSY HAS RELEASED THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMCITS THROUGH THE WARDEN NET: "THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN CARACAS ALERTS ALL UNITED STATES CITIZENS IN VENEZUELA AND THEIR FAMILIES THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE EARLY NOVEMBER 27 COUP ATTEMPT AND ITS AFTERMATH OF SPORADIC GUNFIRE AND HOSTILE AIR ACTION IN CARACAS AND MARACAY, THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT HAS SUSPENDED CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION, MOVEMENT, ETC. AND HAS IMPOSED A 6:00 P.M. TO 6:00 A.M. CURFEW ON ALL MOVEMENTS BY PERSONS AND VEHICLES WITHIN VENEZUELAN TERRITORY. UNITED STATES CITIZENS SHOULD STRICTLY OBEY THE CURFEW AND ALL OTHER GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS, REMAIN INDOORS DURING CURFEW HOURS, AND AVOID ALL BUT ESSENTIAL MOVEMENTS OUTSIDE CURFEW HOURS UNTIL THE SECURITY SITUATION IMPROVES."

8. CONGEN MARACAIBO REPORTS THAT ALL REMAINS CALM THERE,

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 SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 10/ ATTEMPTED COUP IN CARACAS,

BUT THAT SIGNIFICANT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE CONTINUING  
 IN MERIDA AND BARQUISIMETO. AMCONSUL HAD ALSO HEARD AN  
 UNCONFIRMED REPORT ON "RADIO LARA" (BARQUISIMETO) THAT  
 REBEL PLANES WERE STILL IN THE AIR AND ATTACKING  
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 GOVERNMENT F-5'S AT BARQUISIMETO AIRPORT.

9. DUE TO CURFEW, THIS WILL BE THE LAST SITREP OF THE  
 DAY. EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE UP THROUGHOUT THE  
 NIGHT. ADDITIONALLY, AN EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER WILL BE  
 PRESENT IN THE EXECUTIVE SUITE (DIRECT LINES 285-5294 AND  
 285-1165; EMBASSY NUMBER 285-3111, EXT. 484 AND 483).  
 DUTY OFFICER WILL ALSO MONITOR OPEN TELEPHONE LINE WITH  
 THE S/S OP CENTER UNTIL ABOUT 1900, UNLESS SITUATION  
 UNEXPECTEDLY DETERIORATES AND LINE NEEDS TO BE KEPT OPEN  
 LONGER.

FELDER

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